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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMBASSY KUWAIT 1270
AMBASSY TEL AVIV 3098
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USICA WASHDC RUEHIA

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E.O. 11652
TAGS SOPN, SY
SUBJECT KHADDAM PRESENTS "CONSPIRACY VIEW" OF EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON TO STUDENTS' CONGRESS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MAY 24 AL-BAATH HEADLINED FONMIN KHADDAM'S SPEECH TO "WORLD STUDENT CONGRESS" NOW BEING HELD IN DAMASCUS AS FOLLOWS: "KHADDAM CLARIFIES SYRIA'S POSITION TOWARD MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT ISSUES:...PLANS OF THE CONSPIRACY AIM AT STRIKING SYRIA, BASE OF STEADFASTNESS; THE EGYPTIAN REGIME IS ACTING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AMERICAN-ZIONIST POLICY."
2. MOST OF SPEECH IS A REHASH OF FREQUENTLY REITERATED
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POSITIONS, BUT KHADDAM'S ALLEGATIONS REGARDING SOUTH LEBANON ARE INTERESTING. HE SAID: "IN ORDER TO PROVIDE COVER FOR THE VISIT OF SADAT TO JERUSALEM AND HIS CAPITU-LATIONIST PROGRAM, THOSE DIRECTING THE PLAN RESORTED TO PUSHING ISRAEL TO ATTACK SOUTH LEBANON AND OCCUPY PARTS OF ITS TERRITORY. THE FIRST AND DIRECT AIM OF THIS AGGRES-SION WAS TO STRIKE THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND PUSH IT

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NORTHWARD SO THAT IT WOULD BE SURROUNDED WITHIN A NARROW AREA, AND THEN TO CREATE CIRCUMSTANCES REVIVING INTERNAL FIGHTING IN LEBANON. THIS WOULD COMPLETE THE PLAN BY FINISHING THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AS AN ELEMENT IN THE ME CONFLICT."

3. "THE AGGRESSION ALSO AIMS AT STRIKING THE STEADFASTNESS FRONT FORMED BY SOME ARAB STATES AND PLO BY EMBROILING SYRIA AND THE PLO IN A MARGINAL PROBLEM, NOT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE RECEIVING ALL OUR EFFORTS AND CAPABILITIES." END UNCLASSIFIED

4. BEGIN LOU: COMMENT: SYRIAN LEADERSHIP IS PRONE TO THE CONSPIRACY THEORY OF EVENTS, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT ASSAD, OR EVEN KHADDAM, SUBSCRIBE TO IT UNRESERVEDLY. WHATEVER RHETORIC THEY EMPLOY IN PARTY-ORIENTED FORUMS SUCH AS THE STUDENTS' UNION, SYRIA'S ACTION IN LEBANON HAVE GENERALLY BEEN BASED ON CAREFUL AND REALISTIC ASS-MENTS OF ITS OPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

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